

### REMARKS

In response to the office action dated April 18, 2007, Applicant is amending claims 1, 5-7, 9-10, 12-15 and 16, which includes each of the independent claims 1, 12 and 16. As such, claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are pending. Applicant submits that the claims as amended are allowable over the prior art of record.

The independent claims 1, 12 and 16 are being amended to explicitly recite that the linking between documents provides direct navigation between the documents. For example, independent claim 1 is being amended to recite that the linked electronic document and the other electronic document are linked "such that direct navigation is provided between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document". Support for the amendments is found throughout the present disclosure. For example, with reference to Figures 1A-D it is described that commands in the menu 195 can provide navigation between linked documents. [Spec. 5:9—8:14.] The disclosed navigation is direct because when an electronic document is displayed, say the document 190 in Figure 1D, the user can select the command 198 to cause a navigation to the document 120 (see Figure 1A). [Spec. 7:21-22.] Moreover, the menu 195 provides the direct navigation for any linked document that is presented, because it is described that "The menu 195 identifies the document(s) to which the currently displayed document 190 is linked." [Spec. 7:18-19.] As such, navigation from one linked document to the other, and vice versa, is provided. Similar amendments are made for the linking that involves also other documents mentioned in the claims, such as the first and second new electronic documents in claim 1. Corresponding amendments are made in some dependent claims. No new matter is added.

### **Rejection under Section 103**

Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 were rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,389,434 (Rivette) in view of U.S. 20020046224 (Bendik). This rejection is rendered moot by the above amendments. Without conceding that the rejection has merit, Applicant will comment on differences between the present subject matter and the references.

The present claims recite that documents can be created either as independent documents not linked to another document, or as a linked document. Moreover, the claims state that such linking provides direct navigation between the linked document and the other document. Accordingly, when documents are linked it is possible to navigate directly between them, and the system also provides for creation of a document independent of such linking so that it is not created as linked to another document. The ability to selectively create either independent or linked documents of multiple document types, together with the possibility of direct navigation between linked documents, is neither shown nor suggested by any prior art of record.

Rivette is taken as described in Applicant's previous response. Bendik discloses document management systems and method. [Bendik title.] Bendik describes that a document profile is created and that a document template is selected for a document, and that the document template defines the format of the document. [Bendik 0008.] Bendik also describes that the document profile is linked to a file type that is not created in the document management system, for example a word processing document or a spreadsheet document. [Bendik 0009.] Bendik also describes creation of an email message including a link to the document profile so that a recipient can access the document of the document profile. [Bendik 0010.] In Bendik's Figure 6A, initiation of a process for defining document templates is shown. [Bendik 0027.] There, Bendik teaches that a system administrator can set up templates under create menu 90. [Bendik 0053.] In Bendik's Figure 6B, definition of a document template is shown. [Bendik 0028.] There, Bendik teaches that the administrator can define a template name, a relative path, and an application associated with the template. [Bendik 0053.] Bendik also teaches definition of a library that includes an office location and a URL specifying a server name and a path of the document storage. [Bendik 0056.] However, Rivette and Bendik nowhere mention the ability to create documents of multiple types either as independent or as linked, or that two linked documents provide direct navigation between each other.

**I. Rivette and Bendik do not show a system where documents can be created as either independent or linked.**

In Rivette, the notes appear to be restricted as depending on the document they refer to. As such, the notes in Rivette do not seem to have significance as independent documents, but rather they are created as a link to further information. Bendik, moreover, mentions that an email can have a link to a document, but fails to mention or even suggest that the email is created as having this link. Rather, it appears that the email is provided with the link after it has been created.

The ability in the present subject matter of selectively creating a document as either independent or linked provides an advantage in that the linking can be immediately defined upon creation and need not be completed afterwards. [See description of the present Figures 1A-D.]

As such, it cannot be said that Rivette or Bendik, alone or in combination, render the above aspect of the present claims unpatentable.

**II. Rivette and Bendik do not show a menu for creating a linked document of any of multiple types of documents.**

In Rivette, the notes appear to be a single type of document. Bendik, moreover, mentions word processing documents and spreadsheets, etc., but does not appear to have any menu for creation of them as recited in the present claims. In particular, Bendik does not show any such menu where a linked document having the corresponding document type can be created, as recited in the present claims.

The ability in the present subject matter to selectively create a linked document having the corresponding type provides an advantage in that the linking can be immediately defined for any of the multiple document types that has a command in the menu. [See description of the present Figures 1A-D.]

As such, it cannot be said that Rivette or Bendik, alone or in combination, render the above aspect of the present claims unpatentable.

**III. Rivette and Bendik do not show that linked documents provide direct navigation between each other.**

In Rivette, there is navigation between a note and a document, but the notes do not appear to have significance as independent documents or be possible to create as such, and they appear to be of only a single type. It follows that to the extent Rivette discloses any navigation, it is not the direct navigation between documents as recited in the present claims. As such, Rivette fails to teach the direct navigation recited in the present claims. Moreover, Bendik does not supply the missing subject matter because Bendik fails to show the selectivity between creating independent or linked documents, and also Bendik's documents appear to be linked only one way, for example such that Bendik navigates from the email to the document of the document profile. [Bendik 0010.] But Bendik does not appear to teach or even suggest that it should be possible to navigate from the document to the email, as would be required for there to be "direct navigation ... between the linked electronic document and the other electronic document" as recited in the present claims.

The ability in the present subject matter to directly navigate between linked documents provides an advantage in that the user can directly go from a document to its corresponding follow-up document, and vice versa. [See description of the present Figures 1A-D.]

As such, it cannot be said that Rivette or Bendik, alone or in combination, render the above aspect of the present claims unpatentable.

**Conclusion**

Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-19 are allowable over the prior art of record.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this

paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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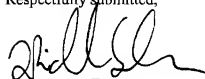
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Respectfully submitted,



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